River Water Sharing Disputes

2163. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Inter-State river water sharing disputes;

(b) since how long these disputes are pending;

(c) the progress made so far in solving these disputes;

(d) whether Government propose to finalise a National Water Policy for providing prompt and effective settlement of these disputes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Union Government endeavours to resolve Inter-State River Water disputes by encouraging negotiations, constituting Boards for development and regulation of Inter State rivers/river valleys. Tribunals for adjudication of inter State river water disputes are set up on the request of any of the party States if the water disputes are not resolved otherwise. Tribunals have been set up for adjudication of Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Ravi-Beas and Cauvery water disputes. First three Tribunals have already given their final awards. As on date Cauvery water and Ravi-Beas water disputes are still under Adjudication by the Tribunals.

(d) and (e) National Water Policy was adopted by the National Water Resouces Council in 1987. The draft "National Policy Guidelines for water allocation amongst States" and the draft "National Water Policy (1998)" are under consideration of the Government.

Survey on the Level of Ground Water

2164. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to find out the level of ground water in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to raise the level of ground water, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have shown a situation of both rise and fall in the level of ground water in various parts of the country. State-wise details of fall of more than four metres in the level of ground water are given in the Statement (*See* below)

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check the declining trend in ground water level include:

(1) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

(2) Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(3) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/ Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water level.

(4) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme by the Central Ground Water Board on studies of recharge of ground water in some parts of the Maharastra, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. Based on the positive results of studies in these States, the Government have decided to extend the afore mentioned scheme to cover some "over-exploited', "dark" and "grey" blocks of some other States also during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(5) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States in artificial rechange of ground water. This Scheme is at consultation stage.